

In areas of science and technologies, in areas relating to environment management, in the areas relating to climate change, in areas relating to health, in areas relating to knowledge initiatives in agriculture—all of these initiatives have emerged as a result of the historic meeting that I had with President Bush on 18 of July of 2005. These are the reasons we have now a strategic partnership with the United States. And all that has happened has happened because of the strong personal commitment of the President.

India is a functioning democracy. And I know how much President Bush appreciates that fact, that a country of a billion people with tremendous poverty, with all the diversities of the world, is yet trying to find its economic and social salvation

in the framework of a functioning democracy. President Bush and I have discussed this aspect of India's functioning several times, and he has shown enormous respect for India, for Indian democracy.

So, Mr. President, this may be my last visit to you during your Presidency, and let me say that—thank you very much.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

Prime Minister Singh. The people of India deeply love you, and all that you have done to bring our two countries closer to each other is something history will not be able to destroy.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Remarks on the National Economy *September 26, 2008*

Good morning. My administration continues to work with the Congress on a rescue plan. And we need a rescue plan. This is—it's hard work. Our proposal is a big proposal, and the reason it's big and substantial is because we got a big problem.

We also need to move quickly. Now, any time you have a plan this big, that is moving this quickly, that requires legislative approval, it creates challenges. Members want to be heard. They want to be able to express their opinions, and they should be allowed to express their opinions.

There are disagreements over aspects of the rescue plan, but there is no disagreement that something substantial must be done. The legislative process is sometimes not very pretty, but we are going to get a package passed. We will rise to the occasion. Republicans and Democrats will come together and pass a substantial rescue plan.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:40 a.m. on the Colonnade at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks on the United States Ocean Action Plan *September 26, 2008*

Thank you all. Please sit down. Thank you, Secretary Clough, for the introduction. And congratulations on the opening of the

Sant Ocean Hall, which, by the way, opens tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock. The Secretary and I just had a fabulous tour. These